

7. Strategic and Inclusive Public Services

7.10 Encourage Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Spaces

Objective

Improve air quality by reducing smoking and tobacco use and excessive idling of motor vehicles in your municipality.

Complementary action:

- [Manage Municipal Fleets](#)

What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities to implement this Action, each municipality will receive points.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Gather local and regional data in your community on tobacco use, tobacco cessation, health consequences and costs, and local vendors and points of access. Tobacco use includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (such as snuff and chew). Where possible, compare it to state and national metrics. One potential source of tobacco data is your local governmental public health department or district. Research effective educational and policy strategies to reduce smoking and tobacco use in your municipality. **(10 points)**

Submit: A summary of the data outlined above; and a list of educational and policy strategies your municipality will consider to reduce smoking and tobacco use.

2. Choose one or more target sectors. Implement or maintain a smoking and tobacco use reduction campaign in those sectors. For example, conduct ongoing smoking and tobacco reduction education in schools, and place smoke-free and tobacco-free signage in public recreation areas. **(10 points)**

Submit: Depending on the specific strategy or combination of strategies you chose, submit a list of names of any educational events and the dates that they were held; photographs of signage; or any other documentation that verifies your municipality's ongoing efforts to reduce smoking and tobacco use.

3. Adopt one or more policies designed to reduce tobacco use in your municipality. The strategies below are illustrative, but other innovative strategies not listed will also be considered. **(15 points; credit for one policy per certification cycle):**
 - Prohibit smoking and tobacco use in public places. Publicize the prohibition to both relevant municipal departments and the community at large. Signs must be posted to educate the public, and the prohibition must be appropriately enforced. Noting the prohibition on recreational facility applications forms is recommended.
 - Use licensing to place conditions on tobacco retailers, such as restricting the use of coupons and regulating the placement of products or advertising.
 - Use zoning ordinances to require tobacco retailers to be located in zones that do not contain facilities frequented by youth, or to lower the density and quantity of retailers by requiring tobacco retailers to be located a certain distance from one another, limiting the total number of retailers allowed in the area, or prohibiting the transfer or expansion of existing tobacco retailer building.

Submit: A resolution or, ordinance formally adopted by your governing body, or a letter from the municipal chief elected official or legislative body to document implementation of one or more policies to reduce tobacco use in your municipality.

Greenwich closely follows the law enacted by the state regarding tobacco use <https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/law/smoking.htm> . As required, the signs are posted to educate the public at every public building in town.



Example of sign posted at Town Hall



Greenwich High School in their “Handbook & School Policies 2017-2018 has a chapter addressing the issue of student Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco. It is advised, “all members of the school staff should take all possible steps to influence students not to begin to use or continue use of harmful drugs, including alcohol and tobacco”.

<https://www.boarddocs.com/ct/greenwich/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9N6TE27686AF>

4. Implement or maintain a strategic campaign to prevent excessive idling of motor vehicles. For example, post “no idling” signs, distribute educational materials at municipal events and centers, or provide ongoing training to relevant municipal employees, such as school bus drivers, police officers, or public works vehicle drivers, among other potential strategies. **(10 points)**

Submit: Depending on the specific strategy or combination of strategies you chose, submit photographs of signage; a list of names of any trainings for municipal staff and the dates that they were held; or any other documentation that verifies your municipality’s efforts to reduce excessive idling of motor vehicles.

Connecticut State Law Prohibits Idling Engines. Idling car and truck engines for more than 3 minutes is illegal. Greenwich enforces this law to the fullest extent. Each car in Town’s fleet has installed GPS unit which allows alert the department heads of car speeding, idling, etc.

<https://www.greenwichct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2208/Anti-Idle-Policy-for-Town-Vehicles-PDF?bidId=>